

REMARKS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 11 and 12 have been objected as having improper multiple dependency.

Regarding this objection, the claims on which Claims 11 and 12 and Claim 11 have been amended to provide proper multiple dependency.

Regarding Claims 1 and 5, the Office Action states that the direction of applying the resin paste does not specify the separate sheet, as being an intended use.

In the amended claims, the words "the direction of applying the resin paste" have been amended to recite --the longitudinal direction of the paper--. This amendment is supported by the description in the specification such as page 34, lines 14-22, page 36, line 21 - page 37, line 2, and Figs. 2-7. By using the inherent direction of the separate paper, it is respectfully considered that the problem pointed out in the Office Action has been resolved.

Claims 1-5 are rejected under U. S. C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kite et al in view of Wilson.

Kite et al disclose a release sheet which is embossed with a transfer pattern to form a pattern in an artificial leather surface. However, there is no specific description or teaching regarding the shape of the pattern. Wilson relates to an upholstery panel, particularly to such panel for use in automobile bodies. Wilson discloses mainly the components of the material for the panel, and does not disclose any teaching about the shape of the emboss pattern except only perhaps when illustrating the figure shown in Fig. 2. In Fig. 2, the direction of the panel is not disclosed.

Further, the pattern shown in Fig. 2 of Wilson is that of an artificial leather, which is formed by pressing a flat coated material with an emboss plate or roller (See Wilson, page 1, right column, lines 96-101.). Thus, Wilson does not relate to the separate paper or casting paper having an embossed pattern for casting resin. When the pattern is formed by press molding, it is not necessary to consider the air-trapping problem as in the separate paper to which the resin paste is cast.

Therefore, to form polygonal shaped figures or closed-outline figures as claimed herein at a specific direction on the separate sheet according to this invention is not considered to be obvious from the teaching of Wilson and Kite et al., whether taken alone or in combination.

Furthermore, as shown in Fig.2 of Wilson, the emboss pattern of Wilson is not a polygonal shaped figure. Thus, the pattern of Wilson is different from that of Claim 1. Regarding Claim 5, since a curved-line portion of all the closed-outline figure is an out-curved convex, the pattern of Wilson is also different from that recited in Claim 5.

Claims 6-10 are rejected under U. S. C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kite et al in view of Venturino. The rejections of Claims 6-10 are respectfully traversed by the following arguments.

Kite et al disclose a release sheet which is embossed with a transfer pattern to form a pattern in an artificial leather surface. However, there is no specific description that provides any teaching regarding the shape of the pattern.

Venturino relates to a wall panel comprising a central layer of fabric having glued thereto on one side a layer of veneer wood or imitation leather and provided on the other side with plastic material secured to the fabric by hot pressing (see, for example, the Abstract). The wall panel of Venturino has an emboss pattern. However, the emboss pattern of Venturino is formed

by hot press for securing the plastic material to the fabric, and the pattern is also formed to the veneer wood.

Between the press molding shown in Venturino or Wilson and the cast molding using the separate paper as shown in Kite et al or claimed in this invention, there exist some technical differences.

For example, as mentioned above, when the pattern is formed by hot press (press molding), it is not necessary to consider the air-trapping problem as in the separate paper to which the resin paste is cast. Second, in case of press molding, the obtained product has a convex pattern when seeing at one surface side, but when seeing at another side, the pattern is concave reversely. Contrary to this arrangement, in the case of casting, the obtained product can have a convex pattern at one surface side, while another side can have a flat face.

Therefore, a person who is skilled in the art can not easily apply the emboss pattern of Venturino to the separate paper as shown in Kite et al.

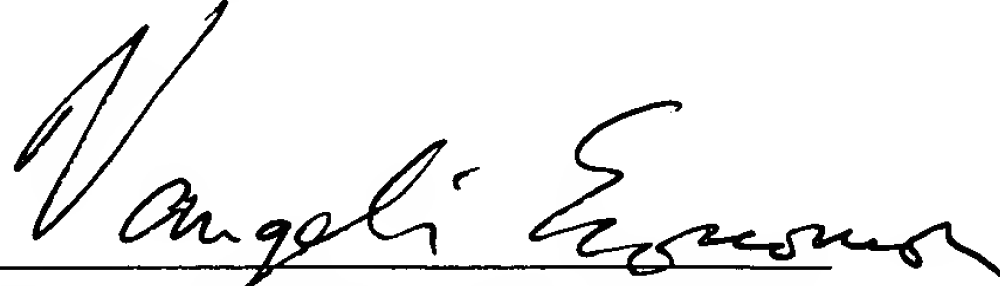
New Claims 13-18 have been added to more specifically claim and distinctly point out the subject matter considered by Applicant to be his invention.

For the above reasons, it is considered that the claims, as amended, and new Claims 13-18 find support in the parent application specification as filed, and that the combination of elements recited in the pending claims, as amended, distinguish over the references of record. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and objections are respectfully requested and an indication of allowable subject matter is earnestly solicited.

As a procedural matter, Applicant has submitted a second Information Disclosure Statement, mailed on January 9, 2003. A postcard indicating receipt thereof by the United States Patent & Trademark Office on January 14, 2003 was received by Applicant's undersigned

representative on January 22, 2003. Because of the timing of the Office Action mailed on January 29, 2003, it is apparent that the second IDS was not reviewed in preparation of the Office Action. Applicant respectfully requests that consideration of the IDS and an indication thereof be forwarded with the next Office Action.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vangelis Economou", written over a horizontal line.

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